



Embedded with the 3d Infantry Division - Iraq

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No “Drive by fieldings.”¹



- Coordination with the unit before, during, and after installation
- Continual training – even after LD
- “We have found that this is a tremendously powerful communications and SA system that has gone from ‘attractive nuisance’ to an essential C2 system in a matter of about 10 days.” COL Sterling, 3 ID CofS



- 1: 1999 Quote from then BG Honore (my Brigade Commander 96-97)



Attachment orders: 10 Mar 03



- Operate as member of 3 ID Rear HQ; lead multiple ABCS field service contractors
- Live/work/support with AMC LAO (LTC Merlo)
- Mission:



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Work where needed



- 20 Mar 03: Establish C2 for the border; provide digitized situational awareness to 3 ID border control HQ (Rear Command Post)
- 21 Mar 03 (G Day) Moved with ADC-S (BG Weber) and his security force
 - Cross border at H+8 hours
 - Provide expert user and situational awareness on BFT





Support the Main Effort



- Advise DRear staff on operational picture
- Take prisoners
- Helped find/recon locations for DMain and Rear CPs
- Troubleshooting/repairs on FBCB2-BFT and ABCS
- 3 ID Draft OIF AAR “The command and control system Force XXI Battlefield Command for Brigades and Below is a system that provides vastly improved situational awareness.”

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Baghdad



- Liaison for PEO C3T C2 Teams and ASA (ALT) BDA Teams forward on the battlefield
- Visit every ABCS & BFT equipped battalion - provide on location customer service (maint., training, operational support)
- Expedited flow of repair parts using AMC coordinated log. flights
- Respond to the Marine Division Chain of Command
- Help arriving forces with support as needed (2 ACR, 75th FA Bde)





Lessons



- Great products are easy to field/support. From the 3ID Draft AAR
 - *“The single most successful C2 system fielded for OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM was the Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade and Below (FBCB2) Blue Force Tracking (BFT) system..”*
 - *“Conducting continuous operations over extended distances on today's' complex battlefield is not possible without a clear definition of the BCTs' and Division's battlespace. This could not have been accomplished without TACSAT and FBCB2.”*
- **Embedded Acquisition Officers give support where TTPs/SOPs do not exist**
- Must be creative to accomplished the mission
- Relationship with AMC critical
- 200+ nights away, but tremendously rewarding professional & personal experience

